



Department
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Dear Stakeholder

Consultation on the Marine Strategy Part Two: UK updated monitoring programmes

Updated monitoring programmes we propose to use to measure our progress towards Good Environmental Status across indicators of biodiversity, productivity, and pressures in UK seas.

Defra, the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government are seeking views on the updated marine monitoring programmes for the state of the UK's seas for each of the UK Marine Strategy descriptors.

The consultation document sets out the monitoring programmes we propose to use to measure our progress towards Good Environmental Status across biodiversity, productivity, and pressures in UK seas; it notes the progress we have made since Part Two was originally published in 2014; and identifies the gaps and opportunities we aim to address in the near future.

The consultation does not cover the assessment of the state of the UK's seas and GES characteristics, targets and indicators. These were covered in a previous consultation, this is documented in Marine Strategy Part One published October 2019 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/841246/marine-strategy-part1-october19.pdf).

This consultation does not cover the programme of measures. This was covered in Marine Strategy Part Three published December 2015 (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486623/marine-strategy-part3-programme-of-measures.pdf).

Our target audiences are groups or individuals who use the sea for whatever purpose, or have an interest in it, business users of the sea, national and local interest groups, and governments in other OSPAR contracting parties.

The aims of the Strategy are consistent with the UK government and devolved administrations' vision of "clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas". This requirement to monitor and assess the state of the UK seas is enshrined in UK legislation and demonstrates the combined commitments of the four UK Administrations to work together to monitor and protect what are some of the most biologically diverse and productive seas in Europe. We will also continue to collaborate internationally with those countries that share our seas, particularly through OSPAR, our regional seas convention, to protect and conserve the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

How to respond:

Consultees can respond using the online survey:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/updated-uk-marine-strategy-part-two-marine-monitor>

Alternatively, written responses can be submitted to:

UK Marine Strategy Team

4th Floor Nobel House

17 Smith Square

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SW1P 3JR

Or via email: marine.strategy@defra.gov.uk

If you wish to obtain a hard copy of this consultation please use the contact details above.

Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the government's Consultation Principles. These can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance.

At the end of the consultation period we will summarise the responses and place this summary on gov.uk.

Copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to

the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request.

Yours sincerely,

Marine Strategy team

Defra